

## How Pastors Care For The Church

This week we are considering the role of pastors in the life of the church.

*Acts 20:28*

*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*

*1 Peter 5:2-3*

*Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.*

*Ephesians 4:11-16*

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

- 1) What do these passages teach us about the nature of pastors' work – what do they do? What are some of the ways we see this get distorted?**
- 2) Why has God given us pastors? What does he do for the church through them?**

Now let's consider how we relate to the pastors God has given us.

*Hebrews 13:17*

*Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

- 3) How should we aim to relate to the shepherds God has placed over us?**
- 4) What are some ways the relationship between shepherd and sheep can go south? How can guard against this as a church?**

We are a young church, with many relationships still getting established. Let's spend some time in prayer specifically for our church.

- 5) How can we pray for our shepherds?**
- 6) How can we pray for ourselves as sheep?**

### **More things you can be praying about:**

- What can we praise God for?
- What sin do you need to confess?
- What cares or burdens we can help carry?